United Nations A/71/897–S/2017/391

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
4 May 2017

Original: English

General Assembly
Seventy-first session
Agenda item 41
Question of Cyprus

Security Council
Seventy-second year

Letter dated 2 May 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 1 May 2017, addressed to you by Mr. Mehmet Dânâ, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I would be grateful if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 41, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Feridun H. **Sinirlioğlu**
Permanent Representative

17-07219 (E) 080517

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 2 May 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I am writing in response to the letter dated 18 April 2017 (A/71/879-S/2017/338) addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative in New York and circulated as a document of the General Assembly and of the Security Council, which yet again contains false assertions similar to those made in his previous letters. In order to set the record straight, I would like to bring the following to your kind attention.

At the outset, regarding the claims of so-called "infringements of international air traffic regulations" and "violations of the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by Turkey", I wish, once again, to reiterate that flights within the sovereign airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus take place with the full knowledge and consent of the relevant authorities of the State, over which the Greek Cypriot administration in South Cyprus has no jurisdiction or right of say whatsoever. The civil aviation authority of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is the sole competent authority to provide air traffic and aeronautical information services within its own national airspace. As for the false assertion that notices to airmen were "issued illegally", it must be underlined that activities within the Ercan advisory airspace that require notices to airmen are carried out by the relevant authorities of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus in accordance with article 3 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago Convention).

Similarly, the claim in the letter regarding the Turkish Cypriot ports is also baseless, given the fact that the Greek Cypriot administration has no jurisdiction or right of say over Northern Cyprus. Furthermore, this claim ignores the present realities on the ground, namely, the existence of two independent self-governing States on the island of Cyprus, each exercising sovereignty and jurisdiction within its respective territory.

As to the repeated false allegations regarding Ercan Airport in the North, it should once again be underlined that the technologically up-to-date Ercan area control centre and airport in North Cyprus have been providing regular, reliable and safe air traffic services since the Greek Cypriot refusal in 1977 to provide air traffic services in the northern part of the island, in line with its isolation policy that has been imposed on the Turkish Cypriot people. Ever since, all flights within the sovereign airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus have taken place with the full knowledge and permission of the Civil Aviation Department of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, over which the Greek Cypriot administration in South Cyprus has no jurisdiction or control. Furthermore, I would like to stress that the allegation regarding the interference of radio frequencies is also totally baseless.

Moreover, the isolation imposed on the Turkish Cypriots, which the Greek Cypriot side attempts to perpetuate by encouraging the international community to deem all air and sea ports in Northern Cyprus "illegal", is in complete contravention of international law, as well as the call made by the then Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, in his report to the Security Council dated 28 May 2004 (S/2004/437), in which he clearly stated, "I would hope they [members of the Security Council] can give a strong lead to all States to cooperate both bilaterally and in international bodies to eliminate unnecessary restrictions and barriers that have the effect of isolating the Turkish Cypriots and impeding their development, deeming such a move as consistent with Security Council resolutions 541 (1983) and 550 (1984)".

The legislation of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus on aeronautical safety meets all standards and recommendations of the International Civil Aviation Organization, providing safe and swift navigation of aircraft landing at or taking off from Ercan Airport and using airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. All airports in Northern Cyprus are in full conformity with international standards, and necessary investments have been made to keep up with the developing technology. The number of air traffic controllers has been increased in accordance with the increasing number of flights over the years, and the Ercan area control centre is in regular and close cooperation with the Ankara area control centre in order to ensure the safe conduct of all flights in the region. In 2016 alone, the number of passengers that used Ercan Airport stood at 3,628,887, while this number is expected to be around 3,900,000 in 2017. Moreover, in 2016, 27,109 aircraft used Ercan Airport for arrival and departure and 210,789 aircraft used the Ercan advisory airspace, and these numbers are expected to be around 28,080 and 225,000 respectively in 2017. In that regard, it must also be stressed that the Turkish Cypriot side is committed to upholding the highest standards in the field of air navigation safety in full conformity with the Chicago Convention of 1944, and that it is ready to cooperate with the Greek Cypriot authorities on this very important issue.

At a time when the comprehensive settlement negotiations are at a critical stage, I deem it necessary to stress the need to fully channel all our efforts towards achieving a just and lasting settlement of the Cyprus conflict in line with the established United Nations parameters and the Joint Declaration of 11 February 2014, which envisage a new partnership on the basis of the political equality of the two peoples of the island within the framework of a bizonal, bicommunal federation with two constituent States of equal status. Moreover, the Greek Cypriot administration should once again be reminded that its counterpart is, and has always been, the Turkish Cypriot side, not Turkey.

Availing myself of the present opportunity, I would like to call upon the Greek Cypriot side to discontinue such counterproductive and outdated rhetoric, which is not reflective of the joint vision and cooperation expressed by the leaders of both communities on the island since the resumption of the settlement talks in May 2015. As the two future partners in the island of Cyprus, we should never lose sight of the fact that the solution of the Cyprus problem will comprehensively deal with all pending issues between the two sides and thus focus all our efforts towards the ultimate goal of settlement.

Finally, I would like to reiterate that, as the Turkish Cypriot side, we are committed to maintaining our constructive and positive stance for a result-oriented negotiating process within the context of your good offices mission in Cyprus and encourage our Greek Cypriot neighbours to follow a similar path.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 41, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mehmet **Dânâ**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

United Nations A/71/900–S/2017/392

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
5 May 2017

Original: English

General Assembly
Seventy-first session
Agenda items 41 and 73 (a)

Security Council
Seventy-second year

Question of Cyprus

Oceans and the law of the sea: oceans and the law of the sea

Letter dated 4 May 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

With reference to the letter dated 12 April 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey (A/71/875-S/2017/321), which also refers to the letter dated 28 April 2016 (A/70/855-S/2016/406), upon instructions from my Government, I wish to state the following:

Article 121 (2) of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea explicitly provides for the entitlement of islands to a territorial sea, contiguous zone, continental shelf and exclusive economic zone. This entitlement is well established as customary international law and, as such, is opposable also to States that are not parties to the Convention, such as Turkey. The Turkish claims described in the aforementioned letters leave Cyprus with no continental shelf and/or exclusive economic zone to the west of longitude 32°16′18″E, disregarding the right of the Republic of Cyprus to maritime zones to the west of the island of Cyprus.

The Republic of Cyprus declared an exclusive economic zone in 2004 and has inherent rights over the continental shelf of the island of Cyprus, the outer limits of both zones being the median line with the opposite States, pending agreement to the contrary. In this regard, the Republic of Cyprus has signed exclusive economic zone delimitation agreements with Egypt, Lebanon and Israel, on the basis of the median line.

The offshore exploration for block 6, declared and licensed by the Republic of Cyprus, is undoubtedly within the exclusive economic zone/continental shelf of Cyprus, in a marine area that lies to the south-west of Cyprus and that has already been delimited, in accordance with the relevant rules of international law, between the relevant opposite coastal States, namely the Republic of Cyprus and the Arab Republic of Egypt, by means of an exclusive economic zone delimitation agreement (2003). The exploration and/or exploitation of block 6 is an exclusive sovereign right of Cyprus in accordance with international law and does not affect the rights of any third State, including Turkey.

Please recycle

The assertions made on the part of Turkey are thus legally unfounded and beyond any reasonable geographical limits. The Republic of Cyprus reiterates that the Government of Cyprus remains determined to uphold and protect its sovereign rights to explore and exploit its natural resources within its continental shelf and exclusive economic zone, using all peaceful means at its disposal, in good faith and within the framework of international law.

I would highly appreciate it if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 41 and 73 (a), and of the Security Council, and published on the website of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea and in the next *Law of the Sea Bulletin*.

(*Signed*) Kornelios S. **Korneliou**

United Nations S/2017/393

Security Council

Distr.: General
4 May 2017

Original: English

Letter dated 4 May 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government, I wish to bring to your attention the recent unlawful and inflammatory statement made by Saudi Deputy Crown Prince, Mohammed bin Salman, who is also the Defence Minister of Saudi Arabia.

On 2 May 2017, Prince Mohammed bin Salman stated, "We will work so that the battle is on their side, inside Iran, not in Saudi Arabia". While categorically rejecting the baseless allegations against my country, I wish to underline that his statement reflects an unveiled threat against the Islamic Republic of Iran, in violation of Article 2 (4) of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as a clear admission of the long-known complicity of the Saudi regime in acts of terror and violence inside Iran, the latest of which resulted in the murder of nine Iranian border guards by the Saudi-financed armed bands. This blatant threat and admission is being made by a regime with a long record of supporting aggression and using terrorist and extremist groups for its short-sighted and dangerous ambitions in the region and beyond.

Over the past four decades, our region and the world have suffered tremendously as a consequence of Saudi insecurity and misplaced obsession with Iran, clearly manifested in the above-quoted statement. This has led to irresponsible, provocative and ill-fated policies and practices of promoting and financing extremism globally and short-sighted and self-defeating adventurism in the region.

We all — including Saudi authorities — need to be reminded of the fact that this misplaced obsession and insecurity led to the Kingdom's unreserved support and financing of Saddam Hussein's aggression against Iran from 1980 to 1988, whose devastating consequence was not confined to the hundreds of thousands of Iranians who became victims of Saddam's aggression and use of chemical weapons, but engulfed the entire region after his invasion of Kuwait and threats against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, biting the hands that had fed and sustained him.

The creation of Al-Qaida and the Taliban in the 1990s, sponsorship of terror and instability in Iraq since 2003, and the formation, financing and arming of ISIS, Al-Nusrah and other terrorist organizations in Iraq and Syria over the past several years are other manifestations of the same Saudi misplaced obsession, which have brought misery and insecurity to the entire globe. It is imperative for the international community to take necessary action to compel Saudi Arabia to stop its reckless sponsorship of terrorism and extremism in the region and across the globe, and particularly its blatant and open aggression, starvation and genocide against the people of Yemen.

17-07229 (E) 080517

Please recycle

In contrast to Saudi rulers, the Islamic Republic of Iran believes that peace and stability is in the common interest of every State in the Persian Gulf region and that no country can attain security at the expense of insecurity for others. We have no desire, nor any interest, in an escalation of tension in our neighbourhood. We continue to stand ready for dialogue and accommodation to promote regional stability, combat destabilizing extremist violence and reject sectarian hatred. We hope Saudi Arabia will be persuaded to heed the call of reason.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Gholamali **Khoshroo**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations S/2017/394

Security Council

Distr.: General
12 April 2017

Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General concerning the credentials of the deputy representative of Sweden on the Security Council

Pursuant to rule 15 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the Secretary-General wishes to report that he has received a letter dated 12 April 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations stating that Ms. Irina Schoulgin-Nyoni has been appointed deputy representative of Sweden on the Security Council.

In the opinion of the Secretary-General, that letter constitutes adequate provisional credentials.

17-07240 (E) 080517

Please recycle

United Nations S/2017/395

Security Council

Distr.: General
2 May 2017

Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General concerning the credentials of the deputy representative of Sweden on the Security Council

Pursuant to rule 15 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the Secretary-General wishes to report that he has received a letter dated 2 May 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations stating that Mr. Carl Skau has been appointed deputy representative of Sweden on the Security Council.

In the opinion of the Secretary-General, that letter constitutes adequate provisional credentials.

17-07242 (E) 080517

Please recycle

United Nations S/2017/396

Security Council

Distr.: General
4 May 2017

Original: English

Letter dated 3 May 2017 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

Following the usual consultations, I wish to inform you of my intention to appoint Mr. Michel Kafando (Burkina Faso) to serve as my Special Envoy, at the Under-Secretary-General level, to lead and coordinate the political efforts of the United Nations in Burundi.

Mr. Kafando will lead and coordinate United Nations support to Burundi, in particular for the promotion of peace and sustainable development, and to the political dialogue process under the auspices of the East African Community.

He will succeed Mr. Jamal Benomar (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), who has completed his assignment, in undertaking the functions carried out by the Special Adviser on Conflict Prevention, including in Burundi, as mandated by the Security Council in its resolutions 2248 (2015), 2279 (2016) and 2303 (2016). I should like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to Mr. Benomar for his dedication and commitment in discharging his responsibilities.

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) António **Guterres**

17-07247 (E) 050517

Please recycle

United Nations S/2017/397

Security Council

Distr.: General
4 May 2017

Original: English

Letter dated 4 May 2017 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that your letter dated 3 May 2017 (S/2017/396) concerning your intention to appoint Mr. Michel Kafando (Burkina Faso) to serve as your Special Envoy, at the Under-Secretary-General level, to lead and coordinate the political efforts of the United Nations in Burundi has been brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council. They take note of the intention expressed in your letter.

(*Signed*) Elbio **Rosselli**
President of the Security Council

17-07248 (E) 050517

Please recycle